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PATENT
ATTORNEY DOCKET: 64118.000141

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Number : 10/606,409 Confirmation No.: 5663
Applicant : Samuel M. SHAOLIAN et al.
Filed : June 25, 2003
Title : TRANSPEDICULAR INTERVERTEBRAL DISK ACCESS
METHODS AND DEVICES
TC/Art Unit : 3733
Examiner: : J. Baxter

Docket No. : 64118.000141
Customer No. : 21967

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, and in compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants submit the attached Forms PTO SB/08A and PTO SB/08B (modified) for consideration and request the references cited therein be made of record by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in the above-captioned application.

The attached documents were cited by the European Patent Office in an International Search Report dated April 7, 2006, in related International Application No. PCT/US2005/043185, and relevance as asserted by the Searching Authority is indicated on the enclosed copy of the Search Report.

Applicants respectfully point out that the submission of the listed references in this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that they are prior art or that they are material to patentability of any claims of the application. Also, the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an indication that a search has been made by Applicants.



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Consideration of the foregoing plus the prompt return of a copy of the enclosed Forms PTO SB/08A and PTO SB/08B with the Examiner's initials in the left column in accordance with MPEP 609 are respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that no fee is required for consideration of this information. However, in the event any fee is deemed necessary, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

HUNTON & WILLIAMS LLP

Dated: 5/31/06

By: 

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Subsidiary Form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Application Number	10/606,409
Filing Date	June 25, 2003
First Named Inventor	Samuel M. SHAOLIAN et al.
Art Unit	3733
Examiner Name	J. Baxter
Attorney Docket Number	64118.000141

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*Examiner Initials	Cite No.	DOCUMENT NUMBER Number - Kind Code (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US- 2002/183758 A1	12-05-2002	Middleton et al.	
		US- 6,059,734 A	05-09-2000	Yoon et al.	
		US- 6,110,127 A	08-29-2000	Suzuki et al.	
		US- 5,178,625 A	01-12-1993	Groshong et al.	
		US- 6,136,014 A	10-24-2000	Sirimanne et al.	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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EXAMINER SIGNATURE

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

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OTHER DOCUMENTS - NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

*Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	TRANSLATION	
			YES	NO
		International Search Report issued by the European Patent Office on April 7, 2006, in International Application No. PCT/US2005/043185 (7 pages)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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